



General Assembly

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**Fifty-third session
First Committee**

Agenda item 72 (a)

**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of
the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly**

**Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia,
Mexico, Monaco, Nicaragua, Peru and South Africa: draft resolution**

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, *inter alia*, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 51/46 A of 10 December 1996,

Welcoming the re-establishment of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, and expressing the hope that this action will lead to a reinvigoration of the United Nations information and outreach activities in the field of disarmament,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of 30 June 1998 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,¹ and welcoming the greater emphasis on products for the general public and the expansion of *electronic* means to disseminate information to major constituents,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General of 30 June 1998 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

¹ A/53/161 and Corr.1



2. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling all Member States to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies, and in assisting them in complying with treaties, as required, and in contributing to agreed mechanisms for transparency;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the United Nations Department of Public Information and the information centres;

5. *Recommends* that the Programme focus its efforts:

(a) To inform, educate and generate public understanding of the importance of and support for multilateral action, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitations and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, particularly through the publication in all official languages of the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook and updates of the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, and ad hoc publications, and through the Department's Home Page on the Internet and other outreach activities, such as the Messenger of Peace;

(b) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(c) To organize meetings to facilitate exchange of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme in order to sustain a strong outreach programme, and invites all Member States to make contributions to the Fund;

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the educational field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations, with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".